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Approved For Release 2001/03/02 : CIA-RDP70-00058R000100120097-1

Extra Billion for B-52s Voted Down by House

Eisenhower Arms Fund Approved

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Fear of Red Gain Voiced on Floor

By Rowland Evans Jr.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Ignoring warnings that America is losing military supremacy to the Soviet Union, the House today shouted rejection of an extra \$1,000,000,000 for more B-52 intercontinental bombers, then went on to approve, 379 to 0, President Eisenhower's 1957 defense appropriations request.

The bill, biggest of all executive appropriations, totals \$33,635,068,000, almost half of it for the Air Force. It now moves across the Capitol to the Senate, where a Senate Appropriations subcommittee is already taking testimony from civilian and military chiefs of the Defense Department.

Chairman Speaks

Rep. Clarence Cannon, D. Mo., House Appropriations Committee chairman, charged on the floor that Russia is gaining a "frightening lead" over the United States in production of long-range bombers.

President Eisenhower, backed by Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, has said with great vigor on several recent occasions that the United States does not require a lead in individual categories of defense, such as intercontinental bombers. "The objective," he said, "is a balanced force."

The move to add \$1,000,000,000 to speed production and increase the number of the same jet B-52 heavy bombers came from Rep. Daniel J. Flood, D. Pa., who told a group of House people "will not permit any nation to surpass us in the

number of intercontinental bombers." He said that "parity at the least" with Russian bombers is essential.

\$248,000,000 Voted

The President's April 9 request for \$248,000,000 in new appropriations for twenty-nine more B-52s was included in the money bill approved today. Top Administration officials have agreed that Russia is out-producing the United States in heavy bombers and have ordered a speed-up from the present six to an eventual twenty B-52s a month, a target figure estimated as more than a year off.

Disclosures of B-52 production rates and reported advances in Russia have stemmed primarily from testimony before the Senate's special air-power subcommittee, headed by Sen. Stuart Symington, D. Mo. That panel held a day-long, secret session today with high-ranking Air Force officers. No part of previous secret testimony from Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen W. Dulles, it was understood, will be made public.

In the Senate Appropriations subcommittee, meanwhile, Secretary of the Navy Charles S. Thomas put extraordinary emphasis on the Navy's strategic bombing capability. There would be "few important targets in the world that the Navy . . . could not reach with atomic weapons," he said.

In an obvious dig at the Air Force heavy-bomber mission, he pictured modern aircraft carriers as "mobile air bases which give us the flexibility which cannot be duplicated by any other method. . . . We need permission from no one to take these mobile air bases any place on any part of the 70 per cent of the earth's surface that is sea water."

Not only that, he said, carriers of the Forrestal type "are hard targets to find and harder to hit. . . . In the day of ballistic missiles, carriers will not be targets for long-range missiles, which must necessarily follow a fixed trajectory."

Mr. Thomas made an un-categorical declaration that America "is ahead of everybody in the missile field," a statement the committee, headed by Sen. Dennis Chavez, D. N. M., did not explore. But it conflicted with statements made on and off the Senate floor recently that Russia has fired long-range ballistic missiles much farther than any test-fired in this country.

Anti-Aircraft Dispute

Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, Army Chief of Staff, disclosed for the first time in public that the Army and Air Force are in a bitter contest over the Army's traditional anti-aircraft mission. Sen. John Stennis, D. Miss., demanded a secret test of ability between the Army's Nike anti-aircraft missile and the Air Force's new Talos missile, which the Air Force wants to use to protect its bases.

Army Secretary Wilber Brucker praised the Nike in such terms that Sen. Stennis said it was "not fair to the American people to leave them with the impression that it is an absolute defense against . . . attack." He demanded again that the two defense systems, the Nike already in place around American cities and the Talos just coming into being, be tested for performance. The American people, he said, could not afford to lose by inter-service rivalry.

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